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LETTERS TO THE NORTH.

NUMBER 5.

To the Editors of the Charleston Mercury: Gentlemen: I desire it to be borne in mind, that I am not a slaveholder, and have no inte rest in the South only as a stranger and traveller; that my object in these letters is neith er to advocate slavery, or defend the institu tion, but to narrate facts as I find them. In the abstract, I used to regard slavery as an evil. though never to the negro; and I now have some doubts whether it is an evil in any sense of the word. It is regarded as an evil, because the slave States have not filled up with emi grants and flourished as rapid'y as the Northwestern free States. But I am constrained to believe that " land monopoly," as it is termed and the ruinous system of agriculture that has prevailed, together with the poverty of much of the soil, has had more to do with producing a sparse population, and worn out fields, than slavery; that is, that the same results would have followed the same system of owning large tracts of land, and cultivating but small portions of that in some exhausting staple crop, it it had been done by hired labor. It is charged that slavery corrupts the morals of the whites.

Upon this point it is certain that if the white population of the South are no better than they should be, they are no worse than their neighbors. And I must say that the proportion of crime is much less here than at the North .-What, then, are the evils of the institution ? An evil must be an injury to some one. An injury must hurt or make some one unhappy, and f very great, it will perforce make the afflicted one very miserable. Isolated cases may be found where all this happened. And so it has happened in the matrimonial state. But no more in one than in the other has it proved a great curse to the human family.

The first slaves ever landed in America were twenty in number, from a Dutch man-of-war, in James River, in 1620. For a long time after this, they were an article of traffic in all the Colonics. No doubt they were sometimes cruelly treated in early times, but a very different feeling now exists between master and slave. In more than half the cases the present owners have grown up with the negroes, and have been nursed by them in infancy and sickness, and an attachment has grown up with them for one another as strong as exists between the members of a New England family.

It is not in the nature of things for masters thus reared to be cruel to their people, or for those people not to entertain feelings of strong attachment to such masters.

Would it not be well to inquire why the negro race has always been subjected to the condition of slaves by the whites, for such is the fact. Long before European ships visited the African coast the Arabic caravans bought the negroes of their negro enslavers and sold them to the whites; and it we believe the Bible we must believe the traffic was sanctioned of God. It is an undeniable truth that they are and ever have been a nation of savages, unaffected by surrounding civilization, and that they never have been civilized or Christianized except in a state of subjection to white masters.

Has Africa ever produced a negro hero, or sage, or man of science? Not one.

Because a few of the negroes among us do occasionally exhibit bright intellectual qualities, many good philanthropists have been led to believe that the whole race might be elevated to the same standard, and have come blindly to the opinion that the first great necessary step to bring about this wonderful result, will be to declare them free, and insist that they are equal to the white race.

Are these good but erring men aware, that there is almost as much difference between the different tribes of the negro race as there is between the blacks and whites?

For instance, the Jolofs seem to be almost a distinct race of negroes, and have been a comparatively civilized people from the era of their first discovery by the Portuguese.

"Those of Guber and Hausa, where a considerable degree of civilization has long existed, are perhaps, the finest race of negroes in Africa, unless the Jolois are such, and should be

By slaveholders the Coromantes are esteem ed the most intelligent and most capable of being taught; making trusty and good drivers to urge on those of a more sluggish nature, but very impatient and turbulent at being driven themselves. These negroes are of a dingy copper color; their lips and high cheek bones, like the North American Indians. Some of them will lay down and die, rather than yield to be driven to work by the whip. In their native land they are never kept as slaves, on account of their sulkiness.

The next in the scale of value, or perhaps they are equal, are the Congos. They are tall, straight, bright copper-colored, smooth skin. small rough hands, and make good imitating mechanics; in that respect, like the Chinese. They are from the southern coast of West Africa, between south latitude 4 and 15 deg.; a district of country that contains the kingdoms of Loango, Congo, Angola, Matambo, and Benguela, which was discovered by the Portuguese, in 1481, ever since which they have made slaves and converts of the inhabitants, the greater portion of whom, notwithstanding their contact with the numerous Portuguese settlements in their country, and the strenuous efforts of the missionaries for more than three centuries, still remain sunk in the grossest barbarism and idolatry, going almost naked, living like beasts, and worshipping, if worship it can be called, the sun, moon, stars, and hideous beasts and reptiles. Much of the country, back from the coast, is desert and inhabited by elephants, leopards, monkeys, monstrous serpents

and terrible crocodiles. This country is sometimes called Lower \$657.800. Guinea, and was formerly a great slave mart for Christians engaged in the traffic, and is the ler in figs at Bologna.

coast from which the great trade of the present day is still carried on-sometimes by citizens

of the Uni ed States. It is from this country, that abominable, noi sy, domestic fowl, known as the Guinea henwas brought. It is a country so infested with venomous serpents, some of which are more than thirty feet in length, and reptiles and insects, that it is unfit for the residence of human beings. The negroes from that coast, when brought here and left in a state of slavery, are not found sighing to return to their own native

We are sometimes wont to complain of the little ant in this country, while in Guinea they exist in such quantities that they drive the inhabitants from their buts, and have been known to destroy the carcass of an ox in one night, and often would destroy the debilitated sick if not

gua del against. The Eboes and Mongollas are jet black, medium beight, chuckle headed, thick lips, hearty eaters, inclined to grow fat, seldom possessing any mechanical skill, though generally tractable and patient, lazy slaves, needing to be driven to work, and unlike the Coromantes. only to be kept at it by driving. They are ca-

pable of great endurance under a burning sun. The Ashantees, who inhabit an interior por tion of the North of Africa, have ever been the most powerful and warlike tribe of negroes on that continent. They have frequently defied the scientific and destructive means of European warfare, and during the prevalence of the ancontrolled slave trade, were the principal instrumen's to supply the hordes of slaves that were shipped from the upper Guinea coast. It was through the agency of this tribe that Spain derived her supplies to fill the celebrated Assiento Contracts she made with Portugal, France and England, to supply their American colonies with negro slaves.

But notwithstanding their power and warlike disposition, many of them suffered the same tate they were so anxious to inflict upon their weaker neighbors, -their Christian allies never hesitating to purchase whatever was offered with a black skin, without inquiring whether he was friend or toe.

The Ashantees, Foutis, Sulemas and Daho mans, are similar in leading characteristics as slaves to the Eboes and Mongulias.

There are also some tribes of African ne groes that are so low in the scale of civilization in a they are rejected as worthless, even by the West India planter, where they are not even required to learn the art of anything more scientific than digging up the ground with a hoe, to prepare it for the crop of sugar-cane; for thus thousands of acres are prepared where the use of a p'o v is unknown.

These beings (I can hardly call them human) in their native country, live in the wild jungles, without fire, without clothing of any kind, and without habitations, and upon such food as nature provides for them without labor. They are about four feet high, the head strongly resembling in shape that of the ourang-outang, and having a profusion of Lair on the body and

I was lately told by an intelligent gentleman, that he knew three of them on one plantation in the West Indies, who never could be learned to perform any labor, and their whole employment was catching rats; which they did in their own way, and the strongest incitement to which was the fact that they were allowed the privilege of living most luxuriantly upon all they caught-actually rejecting their regular allow ance of good bread and meat for the more palatable dish of roasted rats. So much for taste.

Another instance was related to me by a vey kin l-hearted friend of mine, now residing in I linois, of an attempt which he made some years ago in Florida, to tame one of these wild n groes, by treating and feeding him with great care and kindness; but before he had fairly accomplished the task, his ward escaped his care and was not seen again for severa weeks, when he was found naked as in his native wilds, basking in the broiling sun upon the burning sandy beach, where he had been holding a feast upon the stinking carcass of a porpoise that had drifted up in a storm. So much again for taste.

Can such beings be civilized-christianized -rationalized? Is it sinning against the light of knowledge and truth that illuminates the nineteenth century, to compel such beings to be clothed, and fed, and instructed, and to perform useful labor, in civilized society?

I remain a friend to my country, SOLON ROBINSON.

SALE OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADpress .- As will have been seen by the Congressional proceedings in yesterday's Sun, Mr. Clay's resolution for the purchase by Congress, if it can be obtained at a reasonable price, of the original manuscript of Washington's Farewell Address, has passed the Senate. This ever to be venerated document is to be sold among the effects of the late David C. Claypoole, by M. Thomas & Sons, on Tuesday, February 12, at the Philadelphia Exchange. No one has even questioned the authenticity of this document. Indeed, says the Philadelphia Bulletin, it bears on every line, unimpeachable evidences of the work of the Father of his country. We see that the sale is advertised in the London papers, and there will probably be bid ders from England at the sale; as such a relic would be a rare prize for the British Muse um or any similar institution. We trust, however, that it may never be taken abroad .- Baltimore Sun,

Abolition Emissaries .- It appears from a publication in the last Asheborough (N. C.) Herald, that an Abolition e nissary, under the guise of the True Wesleyan Church, has been covertly and insidiously instilling the doctrines of Abolitionism and amalgamation" into the community of Franklinsville, Randolph county, and that this emissary has "received countenance, encouragement and support in the village of Franklinsville." The manufacturing company, among whose hands we presume this emissary has been operating, has passed resolutions disavowing all connection and sympathy with him, and denouncing him and his conduct in the severest terms.

ST. Louis. - The whole number of buildings erected in the burnt district at St. Louis, up to the present time, is 158, at an aggreate cost of

Rosini, the great music master is now a dea-

THE JOURNAL.

CAMDEN, S. C.

FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 1, 1850.

SOUTHERN CONVENTION.

As delegates to represent the Congressional District, composed of Sumter, Richland, Fairfield, Lancaster, and Kershaw, at the convention to be held at Nashville on the first of June next, at the request of many friends, we respectfully suggest the names of Col. J. Chesnut, Jr., of this District, and the Hon. J. L. Manning, of Clarendon, Sumter District. The interests of these gentlemen are deeply identified with those of the South, and believing as we do that for ability to serve in that distinguished a d responsible position they are em nently qualified, we submit their names to the consideration of the Congressional District Convention to be held on the first of May.

THE CALIFORNIA MESSAGE.

The second great message of President Taylor has been for some days before the people. It was called out by certain resolutions calling on the President for the instructions given relative to the forming of State Governments in the newly acquired territories. It is to be remembered that T. Butler King, a prominent candidate for some high diplomatic post, received (as it would have been had no secret power and instructions been given him) the meagre office of a deputy to the Territories. This he would not have received, we feel very sure, had not some secret confidential trust have been reposed. Whatever this might have been, if any, the President has studiously concealed. Every fact has been repressed but those which were forced out-except one-a reiteration from his former happy production, viz: insisting on the introduction of California as a State with its present constitution. From Secretary Clayt n's letter, and other documents, it is a certain conclusion that the adopted constitution of California is the work of the Cabinet, having used T. Butler King as their tool. But admitting that it originated entirely with the present population of California, and is a correct expression of their sentiments, should it be admitted as a State with the Proviso attached? There are two things in almost every human act to be considered: its constitutionality and its expediency. First, as to its constitutionality, the Constitution says that when a Territory has 60,000 inhabitants it may apply for admission as a State, and may be admitted as a State, with a constitution of its own, with this restriction among others, that that constitution shall contain nothing to impair the rights of any other State. Space will only allow us to ask if the admission of California into the Union, with its present constitution, would not impair the rights of all the Southern States? Further, our Constitution as it now stands, is made up of compromises. The Missouri Compromise, the foundation stone of Southern degradation, has been religiously observed by the South, and even he whose departed shade will rise to curse the South if she wakes not to defend her rights, signed the Oregon Bill with the Wilmot Proviso attached through a regard for that Compromise. But has the North regarded it? Without at all recognizing the line within which honor would bind her, she would pass the Wilmot Proviso over every foot of acquired Territory, and has thus, we contend, relieved the South from any obligations further to observe that compremise. Let the action of the South be then to cast aside all compromises but those which are written with the sword, or that give to the South all she could ask before this reaches you.

As to its expediency. This is by no means the least effective property of a correct action, and many a thing though it may be lawful, is not expedient. But this measure, we contend, is alike unconstitutional and inexpedient. It is not expedient as to justice; for he who has read the history of the war by which we gained the territory in dispute, can but feel his spirit burn at the recital of the glorious deeds of those very men that the North would now exclude from any participation in its profits. They would deprive us of our slaves, and push upon us the degraded population of their own States-they would line our streets with beggars, and call it expediency to institute in place of the high-toned chivalry of the South, the picayune sensation that invades the North. Can it be expedient to urge upon Congress any act which must result in the dissolution of the Union ?-the glorious Union that has been watched as an experiment by foreign powers, who would gladly see the stars which so beautifully deck our floating banner fade, and prove to the world that a Republic cannot stand ?

Mr. S. T. Corley, of Kentucky, has been successfully engaged in taking Daguerreotype likenesses at the Odd Fellows' Hall, in our town, for nearly two months, and has "struck off" many of our citizens. Mr. C. is a young man of agreeable manners, and his demeanor among us entitles him to patronage and support. His well assorted supply of cases and lockets, of every sort and size, cannot fail to suit the taste of the most fastidious .-Some of his pictures would well compare with those of Daguerreotypists of more experience and reputation. Mr. C. has gone to Darlington for a few weeks, after which our citizens will again enjoy the opportunity of having their likenesses ta-

The Charleston Evening News of Wednesday has information by Telegraph, that Mr. Clay had introduced a series of Resolutions in the Senate, importing the admission of California into the Union without the slavery restriction clause; territorial governments in New Mexico and Deseret without restriction as to slavery, and the assumption of the debt of Texas on condition of her relinquishing to the United States the territory in New

ALABAMA.-A bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives, of Alabama, by General WALKER, the Speaker, making proand give a hearty concutrence.

Editorial Gleanings.

Tue Denton (Md.) Journal again complains of a great scarcity of laborers in that region of country. Constant employment and good wages are offered,

Tug Philadelphia Ledger, alluding to our 3000 juvenile thieves, says : - "Here is a state of infamy which will keep the State prison supplied for years. The depredations upon property committed by these destitute and uncared for culprits, will cost more than the cs. tablishment of a Reform School, where they might all be trained to habits of industry and usefulness

During the year 1849, the number of steamboats built at Pittsburg was fifty one. During the period clapsed since 1840, six iron steamboats for lake and occan navigation, and one for the coal trade have also been built. Two of the six were United States war steamers-the Michigan and the Alleghany, and the others were revenue cutters.

FRESH .- Our rivers are up from the recent heavy rains ut an unprecedented stage for a period so early in the season. The Alabama is within ten feet of its highest point and the Tullapoosa also av near its stage. The fresh has been very extensive, and especially destructive, we learn in North Alabama and Georgiasweeping away bridges, mill dams. &c, to a large amount in value .- Montgomery (Ala.) Journal.

The Wilmot Proviso resolutions, it is stated, will not pass the Pennsylvania Legislature, the Hon-James Buchanan, arrived at Washington from Hurris. burg, being the bearer of this intelligence.

The whole amount deposited in 14 months at the mints at Pliladelphia and New Orleans wa: \$7 091 -696. The deposits, taking the above as a guide, are estimated to reach, during the present year, \$10,-000.000.

A VIRGINIA MOTHER .- A correspondent of the Whee ling Times gives that paper a statement of a female in that vicinity, who, at the age of 18, married a widower, the father of nineteen children-at his death he left her the mother of five more. She afterwards married another widower having eleven children; at his death he left her the mother of two more, and the day she became 49 years old, she married another widower having eight children, so that at 49 we find her mother and step mother of forty five children, some of whom are grand fathers and grand-mothers !

IGNORANCE IN THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS .- The correspondent of the Morning Chronicle for the manufacturing districts, on entering a house in Leeds found three children alone, The following conversation ensued :-- I asked them if they ever went to school? "Never."-"Can you tell your letters " A mere stolid stare of ignorance .- "How old are you." I asked the eldest girl. "Don't know."-Do you know what is the Queen's name?" "No." "Where were you born? Don't know" (The relieving officer said he believed all the family were Irish.) ' Did you ever hear of a place called Ireland?" "No." Or a place called England?" "No" "Or a place called Yorksh're?" "No."-"Do you know the name of this town?" After a pause the question was answered. The eldest girl did know that she lived in Leeds; and this knowledge with the exception of matters belonging to the daily routine of existence, seemed positively to be the only piece of information in the possession of the family.

Liverpool Chronicle.

From our Charleston Correspondent. JANUARY, 28,1850.

I have before me the news brought by the Niagra. She brings the intelligence that there was an advance in the price of Cotton in the Liverpool market. This has caused buyers here to feel more at ease, and created quite an active demand in the market to-day. Prices were stiff, and a large number of bales changed hands, at from 12 to 13c. There was a 1 4 of a cent advance on the prices, prior to the arrival of the Niagara. I shall not not transmit the balance of the news by the Niagara, I have no doubt but you will get it by Telegraph,

The weather for the past week has been un usually warm for the season, indeed we have a strange climate, subject to every vicissitude.-Our market this winter has been filled with almost every vegetable. The Theatrical Corps, which I spoke of in my last are here and doing their best to good houses. The ex-

pectations of every one have been realized. It is a good company and worthy of being patronized. Mr. Soul, Miss Carpenter and Raymond are stars sure enough. It is quite a treat at this time to visit the Theatre.

The Circus is still here and prospering before a good house. Quite as many visit the Circus as the Theatre. We will soon have another circus here Robbinson & Eldred's, which I have no doubt is a good one from the many recom mendations it has received from the public.

DASH.

TAX ON WINES .- The French Assembly, last year, passed a bill to abolish all taxes on liquors after the first of January 1850. The present Assembly has just repealed that bill by a vote of 418 to 245. The repeal was strong. ly opposed by the Party of the Mountain and by many members from the Southern Provin-

M. Gaillardet, writing to the Courrier des Etats Unis on this subject, says:

"I have cosely observed the sentiment of the masses in Paris for several weeks; and I declare that this observation has inspired me with the most profound disquietude for the future. The irritation is great among the laboring classes, and if the Departments of the South should, as it is feared they will, give the signal for resistance, France will yet have many sad

days to pass.' The same authority says that President Bonaparte hesitated long before giving the law his sanction, and only yielded at last from abso-lute necessity. The money was indispensable to the public wants.

New Jersey-THE WILMOT PROVISO AND THE Union .- Resolutions were introduced into the New Jersey Legislature, on the 15th inst., expressive of the attachment of that State to the fedoral Union, and deprecating any action in Congress or elsewhere which may tend to endanger its perpetuity. That while they are restrict it to its present limits, no doubtful power should be assumed for any purpose, however and instructing their representatives and Senasectional character consistent with the rigid animosities which may exist.

By Magnetic Telegraph.

Reported Expressly for the Journal.

CHARLESTON MARKET.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 1, 1850. Market yesterday dull. Prices depressed. Sales eight hundred bales at from 12 to 12 3-4 Week's sales 7000. Receipts eleven thousand Nothing this morning yet.

Correspondence of the Charleston Evening News Washington, Jan, 25, 1850.

Neither branch of Congress is in session to. day, the House having adjourned until Monday, in order to afford an opportunity to the S anding Committees to mature the business before them. This, however, will be of little avail, so long as the Southern members shall adhere to their determination to arrest all business until the settlement of the Territorial questions. Many anti-slavery Northesn members, who never calculated on such a "constitutional" mo-le of resistance, are now beginning to show a little alarm at the prospect before them; although one of them bravely asserted the other day that an insect might as well endeavor to stop a locomotive, as the South to threaten to arrest the wheels of Government.

In the Senate, on Monday, the bill to carry into effect that clause of the Constitution relative to the recovery of fugitive slaves, comes up as the first business in order. This is a measure of great importance to the slaveholding States, and will, without doubt, pass the Senate by a fair majority. From a statement made by Mr. Butler yesterday, it appears that the State of Kentucky loses annually \$30,000 by the elopement of slaves, and Missouri almost as much. On the whole, the South loses by these elopements about \$150,000 every year. In concluding his remarks he truly observed that it was in consideration of this clause in the Constitution that the North obtained their commercial and navigation advantages. The Southern men who signed the Constitution would rather have had their hands cut off than have given it their signatures, had they known that the clause was to be annulled. He said these results had all been foretold by the sagacious patriot, George Mason, who said "the North will get the majority and disregard the constitutional compromises. They will say the Lord has delivered the South into our hands." The speech of Mr. B. was a powerful one, and his positions unanswerable.

I learn that a bill will be shortly reported providing for a thorough revision of our Consular system. It is notorious that many of our Consuls are appointed solely on account of their political services, and without any regard to their knowledge of business. The bill will propose the examination of all applicants, by a Board to be appointed for that purpose.

The recommendation of the Commissioner of Patents to award premiums for inventions and discoveries is causing a good deal of discussion in the scientific circles. Some object to the premium of \$100,000 for the discovery of an electric motive power, on the ground that it will take a practical operation of ten years, of any new power, to compare its whole economical value with that of steam. No less than \$30,000 was voted by the last Congress to Professior Page, of this city, to make experiments in electro magnetism as a substitute for steam power; but no new facts, adequate to the amount expended, have been elicted. It is remarked that without proper caution these appropriations, if arrayed into a system, might become a black pension fund and a source of corruption.

The British gove nment, at one time, offered premiums for cortain discoveries, and among the rest standing yet, was one for "perpetual motion;" and some of the premiums were worthily hostowed while others were not. Berthalet relates the case of Dr. Berkenhout, who was awar led, in 1715 a premium equal to \$40. 000 for a discovery that proved to be utterly worthless. Such things it is urged, might happen again under the direction of the wisest

Tom White, of the Guardian, who, after he had been for a long time employed to discover the Philosopher's Stone, penned the tamous enistle. "I know as little about the Philosopher's Stone as you do. I shall only tell you, for your comfort, that I never yet could bubble a blockhead out of his money. They must be men of wit and parts who are for my purpose."

A Mr. Dibble is endeavoring to procure a patent for a new steam boiler. The outside of the boiler is composed of sections or apartments for water, each 'communicating with the other by tubes, through which the water circulates. These sections are so constructed, that the boiler can be taken to pieces for transportation or repairs, and be readily joined together. The interior contains a large number of tubes, each forming a curve or angle, and its upper end opening into the steam chamber at the top of the boiler, while the lower end of each pipe opens into the water box or reservoir surrounding the boiler, and from the pipes are supplied with water. It has considerable claims upon the attention of engineers.

I hear that a delegation has come on from New York to urge material alterations of the existing naturlization laws. . It appears that during the past year nearly elven thousand persons were naturalized in New York city alone.

You will perceive that President Taylor's Message was received in England by the Hibernia, and that it was extensive published and favorably commented upon by nearly all the English papers. The "Times" says: "On the whole, this Message is highly creditable to the American people and the government."

> [Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun] WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 1850.

There at present an unusual number of visiters here, and I find the "Empire City" well represented. On Friday evening the President's House was crowded-the "reception" opposed to extension of slavery, and desire all being, by the will of the people, converted into the constitutional power of Congress exerted to restrict it to its present limits, no doubtful powident appeared in better spirits, or more perfectly "at home." Many, however, were disconsonant to the wishes of the dominant party, appointed at not seeing Mrs. Bliss and the gallant Colonel, and many kind inquiries were tors in Congress to vote upon all questions of a made after the health of the venerable lady of the Chief Magistrate. I should not omit the vision for the appointment of delegates to attend construction of the Constitution, and in such fact that in the vast assemblage the dignified a Southern Convention. We rejoice at this, manner as will tend to allay any geographical persons of James Buchman attracted considerable notice, and the cordiality which existed